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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/764,622 | HALLENSTAL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Anthony T Ton | 2661 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 January 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *07 May 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4,5 and 6*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Appropriate application patent number (6 applications) in lines 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in page 2 should be provided.

### *Claim Objections*

2. **Claim 4** is objected to because of the following informalities:

Term "second node **include**" in line 3 is improper.

Examiner suggests changing this term to "second node **includes**".

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. **Claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Christie et al.** (US Patent No. **6,535,483**).

a) **In Regarding to Claim 1**: **Christie et al. disclosed** an arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions and connection control functions *(see Fig.2 node 110 (first node); and see col.7 lines 29-35)*; and

a second node, said second node connected to said first node by at least one link, said second node configured to provide connection control functions, said second node adapted to rely on said first node for call control functions *(see Fig.2 node 114 (second node), link 120 (at least one link); and see col.8 lines 15-31).*

b) **In Regarding to Claim 2**: **Christie et al. further disclosed** wherein said first node is directly connected to said second node by the at least one link *(see Fig.2 link 120, which is used to connect node 110 (the first node) to node 114 (the second node) directly).*

c) **In Regarding to Claim 3**: **Christie et al. further disclosed** wherein said second node does not provide call control functions *(see Fig.3 link 116 connected to the signaling processor 110, hence signaling processor 110 provides call control functions; therefore, the interworking Mux 340 (the second node) does not provide the call control functions; and see col.7 lines 29-35).*

d) **In Regarding to Claim 5**: **Christie et al. further disclosed** wherein said first node and said second node function together as a single logical node within the communications

network *(see Fig.3 node 104A. In which, both node 110 (the first node) and node 340 (the second node) are located inside the node 104A; see col.5 lines 16-29; and see col.11 lines 26-37).*

e) **In Regarding to Claim 7**: **Christie et al. further disclosed** wherein said first node is further connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network *(see Fig.6: connections from signaling processor 110 to node 602 service platform 2 via nodes service request and service complete; and see col.16 lines 45-48: the second service platform 602 is a TDM connection designation).*

f) **In Regarding to Claim 10**: **Christie et al. disclosed** an arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions and connection control functions *(see Fig.2 node 110 (first node); and see col.7 lines 29-35)*;

a second node, said second node directly connected to said first node by at least one link with no intervening node or nodes *(see Fig.2 node 114 (second node), link 120 (at least one link); and see col.8 lines 15-31)*, said second node configured to provide connection control functions *(see Fig.8: node 802 with its signaling processor that connected directly to the communication device, hence the second node configure to provide connection control functions)*; and

wherein said second node is not configured to provide call control functions *(see Fig.3 link 116 connected to the signaling processor 110, hence signaling processor 110 provides call control functions; therefore, the interworking Mux 340 (the second node) does not provide the call control functions; and see col.7 lines 29-35).*

6. **Claims 18-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Christie et al.** (US Patent No. **6,002,689**) (Christie 689).

a) **In Regarding to Claim 18**: **Christie 689 disclosed** a method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a first node having call control functionality and connection control functionality *(see Fig.3 node 334)*;

providing a second node having connection control functionality *(see Fig.3 node 204)*;

connecting the first node to the second node *(see Fig.3 nodes 334 and 204 are connected by links 336 and 338)*; and

sharing, by the first node, the call control functionality with the second node *(see col.13 lines 32-42, and col. 17 lines 22-30).*

b) **In Regarding to Claim 19**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** the method further comprising the step of: transmitting, by the second node, incoming signaling information related to an incoming call to the first node *(see Fig.3: signaling link 336 that is used to transmit signaling information from the first node 334 to the second node 204; and signaling link 356 that is used to transmit a TDM signaling from the second node 334 to the converter 314 to convert from TDM signaling to ATM signaling).*

c) **In Regarding to Claim 20**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** the method further comprising the steps of: receiving, by the first node, the incoming signaling information related to the incoming call from the second node *(see col.13 lines 32-42)*;

executing, by the first node, call control functionality with respect to the incoming signaling information related to the incoming call to produce outgoing signaling information *(see col.17 lines 22-30)*; and

sending, by the first node, the outgoing signaling information to the second node *(see Fig.3: node 334, signaling link 336, and node 204)*

d) **In Regarding to Claim 21**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** the method further comprising the steps of: receiving, by the second node, the outgoing signaling information from the first node *(see Fig.3: link 336 connected the first node 334 and the second node 204 for signaling information)*; and

switching, by the second node, the incoming call responsive to the outgoing signaling information to thereby forward an outgoing call from the second node *(see Fig.3: the second node 204 is connected a third node 306 via the ATM cross connect node 316; therefore a call from the communication device 302 is forwarded to the communication device 304 by the second node 204)*.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claim 8** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Christie et al.** (US Patent No. **6,535,483**).

**Christie et al. disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claim 1.

**Christie et al. failed to explicitly disclose** wherein said second node is further connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network. **However, Christie et al. clearly disclosed** a second node that is further connected to a TDM service platform and ATM cross-connect system *(see Fig. 2: nodes 114 (the second node), 112 (TDM service platform), and 230 (ATM cross-connect system); and see Fig.7: nodes 710, 708 and 720).*

**Therefore, it would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a second node that is further connected to a TDM network and an ATM network throughout the nodes 114, 112 and 230 as shown in Fig. 2 of Christie et al., in order to provide a multiple service in TDM and ATM networks, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call.

9. **Claims 4, 6 and 9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Christie et al.** (US Patent No. **6,535,483**) in view of **Doshi et al.** (US Patent No. **5,483,527**) **(IDS #5)**.

a) **In Regarding to Claim 4**: **Christie et al. disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claim 1; and **Christie et al. further disclosed** said second node includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch *(see Fig.8 nodes ATM IW Mux and ATM Cross Connect located inside node 802).*

**Christie et al. failed to explicitly disclose** wherein said first node includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a first node includes a STM switch *(see node 210 in Fig.1).*

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a first node includes a STM switch throughout the node 110 as shown in Fig.1 of Christie et al., as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call of Christie et al. in an ATM network with a STM network.

b) **In Regarding to Claim 6**: **Christie et al. disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claims 1 and 5.

**Christie et al. failed to explicitly disclose** wherein the single logical node comprises a hybrid switch.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a single logical node comprises a hybrid switch *(see Fig.7: STM/ATM switch located inside TA 255 of the node 200).*

**Therefore, it would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a hybrid switch throughout the hybrid interfaces as shown in Figs.9 and 10 of Christie et al., as taught by Doshi et al., in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call.

c) **In Regarding to Claim 9**: **Christie et al. disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claim 1.

**Christie et al. failed to explicitly disclose** wherein call control functions comprise switching intelligence of a telecommunications node.

**However, Christie et al. clearly disclosed** a signal processor that is referred to as a call/connection manager (CCM) to receive and process telecommunications call signaling and control messages to select connections that establish communication paths for calls.

The CCM comprises a signaling platform 1104, a control platform 1106, and an application platform 1108. The signaling platform 1104 is externally coupled to the SS7, in particular to systems invoke intelligent network functions *(hence, switching intelligence) (see Fig.11 and col.21 line 20 – col.23 line 8: intelligent network).*

**Therefore, it would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such call control functions comprise switching intelligence of a telecommunications node, and connection control functions comprise switching fabric of a telecommunications node throughout the CMM as shown in Fig. 11 of Christie et al., in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call of Christie et al.

**Christie et al. also failed to explicitly disclose** wherein connection control functions comprise switching fabric of a telecommunications node. However, **Christie et al. disclosed** the CCM to control an ATM interworking multiplexer that performs interworking of DS0s and VPI/VCIs. A cross connection can be provisioned with a second set of VPI/VCIs in the opposite direction as the original set of VPI/VCIs *(this is obviously considered as a switching fabric).*

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a switching fabric of a telecommunications node *(see Switch Fabric 215-4 located inside node 215 in Fig.1).*

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a switching fabric of a telecommunications node throughout the ATM cross-connect switch 720

as shown in Fig.7 of Christie et al., as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services of Christie et al.

10. **Claims 11-17 and 22-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Christie et al.** (US Patent No. **6,002,689**) (Christie 689) in view of **Doshi et al.** (US Patent No. **5,483,527**) **(IDS #5)**.

a) **In Regarding to Claim 11**: **Christie 689 disclosed** a dual-node system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a first node *(see Fig.3 node 334)*, said first node including switching intelligence *(col.7 lines 40-58 and col.9 lines 5-25)*;

a second node *(see Fig.3 node 204)*, said second node connected to said first node by at least one link *(see Fig.3 links 336 and 338),* and adapted to transceive signaling information over the at least one link *(see col.13 lines 32-42)*; and

wherein said first node and said second node function as a single logical node within the communications network *(see col.17 lines 22-45: Based on the control message, the interworking unit 204 inter-works the user communications from ISDN (ISDN interworking unit 334, the first node) to ATM cells (in the second node) that identify the selected connection 358 and transports the ATM cells (using VCI in VPI) on the selected connection 358; and see col.8 line 59-col.9 line 4: VC is a logical unidirectional connection, ATM system usually requires companion VPIs/VCIs (hence the first node and the second node function as a single logical node))*.

**Christie 689 also failed to explicitly disclose** said first node including switching fabric, and said second node including switching fabric.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a switching fabric in the second node *(see Switch Fabric 215-4 located inside node 215 in Fig.1).* Doshi et al. also disclosed a STM switch and an ATM switch (STM/ATM) located inside Terminal Adapter 210, which is arranged to pack samples of voice signals as they received from the STM switch 25 via the trunk channel 1 of trunk group 27 into ATM cell *(see Fig.1 node 210).* Thus, with an ATM switch located inside the node 210 (the first node), one of ordinary skilled in the art can implement such an ATM switch to switching fabric as taught by the instant claim.

**Therefore, it would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a switching fabric of a telecommunications node of the first and second nodes throughout the ATM cross-connect switch at the node 316 as shown in Fig.3 of Christie 689, as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services of Christie 689.

b) **In Regarding to Claim 12**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein the at least one link comprises a first link and a second link *(see Fig.3 links 336 and 338)*, each of the first link and the second link operating in accordance with an Ethernet protocol *(see col.9 lines 51-67: ISDN , LAN, Ethernet).*

c) **In Regarding to Claim 13**: **Christie 689 disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claim 11, and **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein the signaling information received from said first node is utilized by said second node in order to switch an incoming call *(see col.13 lines 32-42).*

**Christie 689 failed to explicitly disclose** said second node using the switching fabric thereof to switch an incoming call.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a switching fabric of a telecommunications node *(see Switch Fabric 215-4 located inside node 215 in Fig.1).*

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a switching fabric of a telecommunications node throughout the ATM cross-connect switch 316 as shown in Fig.3 of Christie 689, as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services of Christie 689.

d) **In Regarding to Claim 14**: **Christie 689 disclosed** all aspects of this claim as set forth in the claim 11, and **Christie 689 further disclosed** said second node comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch *(see Fig.5: block 516).*

**Christie 689 failed to explicitly disclose** wherein said first node comprises a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a first node comprises a STM switch *(see node 210 in Fig.1).*

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a first node includes a STM switch throughout the node 110 as shown in Fig.1 of Christie 689, as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call of Christie 689 in an ATM network with a STM network.

e) **In Regarding to Claim 15**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein the single logical node comprises a hybrid switch *(see Fig.3: ISDN inside node 334 and ATM cross-connect*

*connected to node 204, hence ISDN and ATM switch; therefore it is considered as a hybrid switch).*

f) **In Regarding to Claim 16**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein said first node is further directly connected to a time division multiplexed (TDM) network *(see col.7 lines 40-48 and Fig.3 node 302 and 334)*, and said second node is further connected to the TDM network and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network *(see col.18 lines 20-37).*

g) **In Regarding to Claim 17**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein the TDM network comprises at least one of a public switched telephone network (PSTN), a public land mobile network (PLMN), and an integrated services digital network (ISDN) *(see abstract and claim 74).*

h) **In Regarding to Claim 22**: **Christie 689 disclosed** an arrangement for handling calls in a communications system, comprising:

a first node *(see Fig.3 node 334)*, said first node including call control logic for performing call control functionality *(see col.13 lines 32-42: converted to ISDN format, ISDN has a signaling channel (D) for transporting signaling (hence call control logic))*, and first connection control logic for performing connection control functionality for said first node *(see col.13 lines 32-42: converted to ISDN format, ISDN has a bearer channel (B) for transporting user communications from the ISDN IW unit 334 to the interworking unit 204 via the communication link 338 (hence connection control logic for performing connection control functionality))*; and

a second node *(see Fig.3 node 204)*, said second node connected to said first node *(see Fig.3 link 338)* and including an asynchronous switch and second connection control logic for

performing connection control functionality for said second node *(see Fig.5: blocks 516 and 514 locate inside the second node 502)*, said second node adapted to receive call control instructions from said first node for switching communications via the asynchronous switch under the control of the second connection control logic *(see Fig.3: links 336 and 358, ATM cross-connect node 316, and see Fig.5 signaling processor 514. In which, the second node 204 receives call control instructions (signaling) from the first node 334 via the signaling link 336, then the second node 204 (the same node 502 in Fig.5) switching the user communications via the asynchronous switch under the control of the second connection control logic (the signaling processor 514 as shown in Fig.5))*.

**Christie 689 failed to explicitly disclose** wherein said first node includes a synchronous switch.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a first node includes a synchronous switch *(see node 210 in Fig.1)*.

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a first node includes a synchronous switch throughout the node 110 as shown in Fig.1 of Christie 689, as taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call of Christie 689 in an asynchronous network with a synchronous network.

i) **In Regarding to Claim 23**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** the arrangement further comprising at least one link, said at least one link connecting said first node and said second node *(see Fig.3 links 336 and 338)*.

j) **In Regarding to Claim 24**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein said second node requests call control instructions from the call control logic of the first node via said at least one link *(see col.28 lines 27-30 and Claim 72).*

k) **In Regarding to Claim 25**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein said second node forwards received signaling information for an incoming call to the call control logic of the first node via said at least one link without re-formatting the received signaling information *(see Fig.3: node 204, signaling processor 202, converter 314, links 206A, 328, 356 and 336; col.14 lines 32-47; and col.10 lines 32-37: TDM-TDM networks (hence without re-formatting the received signaling information)).*

l) **In Regarding to Claim 26**: **Christie 689 disclosed** a system for combining narrowband applications with broadband transport, comprising:

a first node *(see Fig.3 node 334)*, said first node including call control logic for performing call control functionality *(see col.13 lines 32-42: converted to ISDN format, ISDN has a signaling channel (D) for transporting signaling (hence call control logic))*, and first connection control logic for performing connection control functionality for said first node *(see col.13 lines 32-42: converted to ISDN format, ISDN has a bearer channel (B) for transporting user communications from the ISDN IW unit 334 to the interworking unit 204 via the communication link 338 (hence connection control logic for performing connection control functionality))*;

a second node*(see Fig.3 node 204)*, said second node connected to said first node *(see Fig.3 link 338)* and including an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch and second connection control logic for performing connection control functionality for said second node

*(see Fig.5: blocks 516 and 514 locate inside the second node 502)*, said second node adapted to switch communications via the ATM switch under the control of the second connection control logic responsive to signaling information received from the call control logic of said first node *(see Fig.3: links 336 and 358, ATM cross-connect node 316, and see Fig.5 signaling processor 514. In which, the second node 204 receives call control instructions (signaling) from the first node 334 via the signaling link 336, then the second node 204 (the same node 502 in Fig.5) switching the user communications via the asynchronous switch under the control of the second connection control logic (the signaling processor 514 as shown in Fig.5))*;

an ATM network, said ATM network directly connected to said second node for exchanging communications between said ATM network and said second node *(see Fig.3: 320 and 204)*; and

a time division multiplex (TDM) network, said TDM network directly connected to said first node for exchanging communications between said TDM network and said first node *(see col.10 lines 32-37: TDM-TDM networks, hence the first node ISDN IW 334 as shown in Fig.3 is connected to a TDM network (not shown); and see col.17 lines 60-67: TDM device; therefore, Christie 689 inherently taught a TDM network that is connected to a communication device 302 via the first node ISDN IW 334).*

**Christie 689 failed to explicitly disclose** wherein said first node includes a STM switch.

**Doshi et al. explicitly disclosed** such a first node includes a synchronous switch *(see node 210 in Fig.1).*

**It would have been obvious** to one of ordinary skilled in the art can employ such a first node includes a STM switch throughout the node 110 as shown in Fig.1 of Christie 689, as

taught by Doshi et al, in order to provide a multiple service in different platforms, **the motivation being** to provide enhanced services for a telecommunication call of Christie 689 in an ATM network with a STM network.

m) **In Regarding to Claim 27**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** wherein said TDM network is also directly connected to said second node for exchanging communications between said TDM network and said second node *(see col.17 line 60-col.18 line 37)*.

n) **In Regarding to Claim 28**: **Christie 689 further disclosed** the system further comprising: another TDM network, said another TDM network directly connected to said second node for exchanging communications between said another TDM network and said second node *(see col.10 lines 32-37: TDM-TDM networks)*.

***Examiner Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony T Ton whose telephone number is 703-305-8956. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas W Olms can be reached on 703-305-4703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ATT
6/10/2004

Phirin Sam